

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 4-7 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated October 2, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Verosub, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0205028 (hereinafter Verosub) in view of Yamanaka, U.S. Patent No. 6,853,960 (hereinafter Yamanaka). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims, as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended recites:

A contents processing apparatus comprising:

a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for processing contents packages, and a plug-in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of respective plug-in modules, *wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses, and the plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules;*

a plug-in setting device that installs plug-in modules for processing a contents package; an operation recognition device that identifies permitted operations related to the processing of the contents package from the contents management file corresponding to the contents package;

an execution instructing device that provides an instruction for processing the contents package;

a plug-in function permission device that permits use of plug-in modules corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules; and

a contents processing execution device that processes the contents package, according to the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules permitted by said plug-in function permission device.

The Verosub reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended. As the Examiner has acknowledged, Verosub does not disclose “plug-in modules” or a “plug-in function permission device” as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

In addition, unlike the apparatus specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Verosub does not teach “a contents information storage that stores a plurality of contents packages, a contents management file for managing respective licenses for the plurality of contents packages, plug-in modules including executable operative functions for processing contents packages, and a plug-in management file for defining the executable operative functions of the plug-in modules among a plurality of functions of respective plug-in modules, *wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses, and the plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules.*”

Verosub is directed to transfer, processing, sale, and usage of digital content. (*Verosub, Paragraph 0002*) Verosub discloses that encrypted assets and licenses are downloaded to a client machine 16 using a download manager 162 on the client machine 16. The download manager 162 stores the encrypted assets in a media database. The client machine provides playback of the encrypted asset associated with asset rights 20. (*Verosub, paragraph 0073*)

When a user requests playback of an encrypted asset, a request is sent to an asset rights module 207 to retrieve an encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24 associated with the encrypted asset 18. The asset rights module 207 requests machine-bound asset rights 234 from a secure key locker 26. The asset rights module 207 breaks the machine-bound asset rights

234 into the encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24, and sends the encrypted asset key 22 and encrypted usage rights 24 to the output module 211. The output module 211 decrypts the usage rights 24, and confirms that the playback is allowed by the usage rights 24. If playback 27 is allowed, the output module decrypts the asset key 22 that is associated with the encrypted asset 18, and decrypts the encrypted asset 18 with the asset key, to serve the playback request 212a. (*Verosub, paragraphs 0075-0077*) However, Verosub fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a contents information storage “*wherein the contents management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective contents packages based on the respective licenses, and the plug-in management file includes limit information for controlling the use of the respective plug-in modules.*” (hereinafter the “contents information storage” limitation)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Verosub.

The Yamanaka reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Verosub. Yamanaka is directed to a communication apparatus using a plug-in system. (*Yamanaka, 1:10-14*) Yamanaka discloses a system including a plug-in module. (*Yamanaka, Fig. 7*) Yamanaka discloses judging whether or not a plug-in module is required for specific content. In particular, Yamanaka states:

When the required plug-in judgment (sic) unit 4 understands what plug-in module is required, the required plug-in judgment (sic) unit 4 checks the plug-in management unit 3 to know if the required plug-in module exists in the receiving terminal. When exists, the required plug-in module is called and data processing corresponding to the required plug-in module is executed. When the required plug-in module does not exist, the file size information on the required plug-in module is acquired by using the plug-in download unit 5. (*4:32-5:3, emphasis added*)

Yamanaka further discloses that the plug-in management unit manages the plug-in modules according to the frequency of use of the respective plug-in modules. A plug-in deletion unit is then used to delete plug-in modules with the lowest frequency of use. (*8:40-51*)

In other words, Yamanaka merely discloses an apparatus identifies a plug-in module for performing an operation (e.g., for playback or editing) on particular contents, and determines whether the identified plug-in module is installed or not. Further, Yamanaka discloses that the plug-in modules are organized based on their frequency of use, with the lesser used plug-in modules being deleted. As such, Yamanaka discloses a limitation on the availability of a plug-module based on its lack of use. However, this is not the same as an apparatus which includes “*a plug-in function permission device that permits use of plug-in modules corresponding to the permitted operations identified by said operation recognition device, among functions of the plug-in modules installed by said plug-in setting device for processing the contents package based on the limit information for the respective plug-in modules.*” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka.

Independent claim 7 recites limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7 distinguishes over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 and 8 distinguish over Verosub in combination with Yamanaka for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

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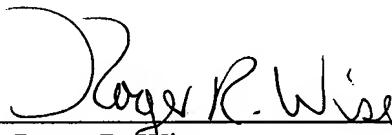
Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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